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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

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SUBJECT Bulgarian Refugee Activity in Macedonia

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1. As of early 1951, there were about 300 Bulgarian refugees living in Macedonia, about half of whom were from the Gorna Djumaya district in Bulgaria. Refugees arriving in 1948 and 1949 were harshly treated by the Yugoslav authorities and generally spent from one to two months in prison while they were being investigated. In a few cases, individuals were kept in prison six months or a year. This Yugoslav policy gradually changed during 1950 and now it is rare for a newly arrived refugee to be held longer than ten days.
2. In the months immediately following the Yugoslav-Cominform break there were numerous cases wherein Macedonian authorities would force refugees whom they believed to be poor security risks to return to Bulgaria, but this practice has now entirely ceased. There are no refugee camps for Bulgarians in Macedonia, the refugees living in various towns and villages wherever they can find rooms. The refugees are urged to work in the mines, factories and farms of the area, and they experience the same working conditions as the Yugoslavs.

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